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CA 94662-8097 (US). **HURST, Deborah** [US/US]; Chiron Corporation, P.O.Box 8097, Emeryville, CA 94662-8097 (US).

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(74) Agent: **ALEXANDER, LiSA, E.**; Chiron Corporation, Intellectual Property Department, P.O.Box 8097, Emeryville, CA 94662-8097 (US).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **CHIRON CORPORATION** [US/US]; 4560 Horton Street, Emeryville, CA 94608-2916 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **LONG, Li** [CA/US]; Chiron Corporation, P.O. Box 8097, Emeryville, CA 94662-8097 (US). **LUQMAN, Mohammad** [US/US]; Chiron Corporation, P.O. Box 8097, Emeryville, CA 94662-8097 (US). **YABANNAVAR, Asha** [US/US]; Chiron Corporation, P.O. Box 8097, Emeryville, CA 94662-8097 (US). **ZAROR, Isabel** [US/US]; Chiron Corporation, P.O. Box 8097, Emeryville, CA 94662-8097 (US). **CHEN, Bao-Lu** [US/US]; Chiron Corporation, P.O. Box 8097, Emeryville, CA 94662-8097 (US). **LU, Xiaofeng** [CN/US]; Chiron Corporation, P.O.Box 8097, Emeryville, CA 94662-8097 (US). **LEE, Sang, Hoon** [KR/US]; Chiron Corporation, P.O.Box 8097, Emeryville,

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(54) Title: **ANTAGONIST ANTI-CD40 MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES AND METHODS FOR THEIR USE**

(57) Abstract: Methods of therapy for treating diseases mediated by stimulation of CD40 signaling on CD40-expressing cells are provided. The methods comprise administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist anti-CD40 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof to a patient in need thereof. The antagonist anti-CD40 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is free of significant agonist activity, but exhibits antagonist activity when the antibody binds a CD40 antigen on a human CD40-expressing cell. Antagonist activity of the anti-CD40 antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof beneficially inhibits proliferation and/or differentiation of human CD40-expressing cells, such as B cells.



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